Demand for Revision of Royalty on Coal

1788. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state whether some States are urging for the revision of royalty on coal, if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Representations have been received from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa requesting upward revision in the rates of royalty on coal specially as regards power grade coals. In addition to the upward revision, State Government of Bihar has requested for fixation of coal royalty on ad valorem basis.

Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 allows upward revision in the rates of royalty only once during a period of three years. Since the last increase in royalty rates was effected on 1-8-1991, next increase could be allowed only after 31-7-1994. The suggestions received from the States would be kept in view at the time of next revision.

Privatisation of Coal Distribution Policy

1789. SHRI VITHALBHAI M.PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the privatisation of distribution policy of coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited and Government have announced to privatise the distribution policy of coal to satisfy the customers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Coal is supplied to actual users, against linkages/ sponsorships or both. This coal is not available for resale under the provisions of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. However, in order to further improve the availability of coal, Coal is also sold under a Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS).

Recently, the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) has been further improved to extend the benefits to a larger cross section of buyers. Interested buyers under 'LSS' have been categorised as under:

1. Actual users.
2. Mini Traders.
3. Whole Sale Traders.
4. General.

First preference in order booking and despatches under Liberalised Sale Scheme would be given to actual users who can draw coal for their own use in addition to the normal supplies being received by them against sponsorships/linkages.

Second preference would be given to the Mini Traders registered with coal companies. CIL have given wide publicity inviting application for registration as Mini Traders. They will be registered on a continuous basis. Applications received upto 14-8-1993 would be registered in the first batch. Mini Traders would be supplied coal upto 100 tonnes per month subject to availability after meeting the orders booked by actual users. Third preference would be given to the Whole Sale Traders appointed by the coal companies subject to availability after meeting orders booked by first two categories. If some quantity is still available, it would be allocated to other interested buyers.

Discrimination in Promotional Matters in Western Coalfields

!790. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Coalfields Limited has received any complaints from SC and ST Association regarding discrimination in promotional matters since the 16th November, 1992:

(b) if so, the number of complaints received so far in this regard;